

TO THE COMMITTEE: THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN LEGISLATORS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK IN ADVANCE. _____ WE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE THIS RELENTLESS, SHAMELESS ASSAULT ON THE BUDGET AND SERVICES OF THE DDS. THERE HAS BEEN MOUNTED A DEMONSTRABLY DISPROPORTIONATE LOOTING

OF THE DDS BUDGET SINCE 2013. YOU ALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE CALCULATIONS. THERE IS A BODY OF OPINION SWELLING AMONG THE CLIENTELE OF THE DDS THAT THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE SYSTEMATIC CUTS TO THIS AGENCY IS THE DISMANTLING OF THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT. WE CAN TELL YOU THAT NOT ONLY

ARE FAMILIES BEING HURT, TORMENTED BY THE EBB AND FLOW OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY AND DEMORALIZED BUT ALSO THAT '_____ EXPONENTIAL RISK OF INJURY___ACCOMPANIES EVERY RESCISSION!!! WHO WILL ANSWER FOR THIS IN THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION OR HIGHER? EVERY MORAL AND CIVIC ARGUMENT HAS

BEEN OFFERED BY THE IDD FAMILIES, THE IDD CAUCUS AND AND THE PRESS ABOUT THE THIRD-CLASS CITIZEN TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES! THEY HAVE MADE NO POOR LIFE CHOICES OR FAILED ANY CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS OR CLAIMED ENTITLEMENT.

INDEED, EQUALITY OF FISCAL TREATMENT IS THE UNENDING CLARION! OUR ISSUE IS THE HAND-UP RATHER THAN THE HAND_OUT. AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE FEELING IS OVERWHELMING IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE NATURE OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES THEMSELVES IS WHOLLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE IN THE

HIGHEST ECHELONS OF FISCAL DECISION-MAKING OR PLAINLY NOT THAT IMPORTANT!-----WHAT ELSE COULD EXPLAIN THE CHRONIC PUNCHING BAG APPROACH TO THE DDS BUDGET. THE GOVERNOR'S OWN 'WORK FORCE' HAS NOT EVEN DELIVERED ITS OFFICIAL REPORT DEFINING THE PROBLEM AFTER MONTHS OF DELAY! THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THIS FACT. THESE ISSUE WE UNDERSTAND ARE NOT

WITHIN YOUR PROVENANCE. YOU AT APPROPRIATIONS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE, GIVEN THE FISCAL CALAMITY IN OUR STATE. WE CAN ONLY ASK THAT YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO RETRIEVE SOME OF THE DDS' FUNDING BEING TARGETED THIS TIME AROUND! THE IDD COMMUNITY REMAINS FOR

ALL TO SEE AN EMBATTLED, OPPRESSED AND RICHLY DIVERSE MINORITY. WE CAN ONLY PLEAD WITH YOU OF THE LEGISLATURE TO DEFEND OUR CLAIMS AND SUSTAIN OUR COURAGE. "IAM PRIDEM AMISSIMUS VERA VOCABULA RERUM!" GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SERVICE, KATIE, DONNA AND JOE DUFFY/ WETHERSFIELD